

Army Family Action Plan

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Army Family Action Plan Conference



23-25 January 2006



Most Valuable Services

1. Commissary
2. Youth Services/CDC
3. Medical
4. Army Community Service



Army Family Action Plan Conference

Work Group #1

Relocation/Housing

Spokesperson: Kathy McCall



TITLE:

06-112 Availability Of On-Post Housing

SCOPE:

Fort Lee has an inadequate amount of on-post housing to accommodate current and future requirements. There are approximately 300 enlisted Soldiers with dependents awaiting on-post housing. Fort Lee anticipates an influx of several thousand Soldiers and their families due to BRAC. Soldiers and their families experience separation from participating in military services and amenities, endure mental stress, and loss of security. Soldiers spend less time focusing on the mission and experience a loss of morale.

RECOMMENDATION:

Develop a long range plan to accommodate the Soldier with family government quarters for existing and future service members and their families.

Lease housing off-post.



TITLE:

06-045 BAH Rates For Fort Lee and Surrounding Area

SCOPE:

Current military BAH rates do not adequately cover housing expenses for Fort Lee and the surrounding area. Many Soldiers living off-post may experience out of pocket expenses to maintain a household up to several hundred dollars more than those living on-post. As a result, the hardship to cover some housing expenses falls directly upon the Soldier. Consequently, some Soldiers may be forced to live in less than desirable housing and may damage their future credit history to cover essential living expenses.

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase the BAH rates to include all zip codes within a 50 mile radius of Fort Lee.

Change the criteria for establishing the BAH rates to include family size.



TITLE:

06-185 Service Orders For Government Quarters

SCOPE:

Housing and equipment service orders are not completed in a timely manner to maintain a suitable quality of living. There is a breakdown of communication between the service order desk and the contractors who are completing the work. The safety and loss of work time due to scheduling and performance is creating a burden upon Soldiers, their families and units.

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct a town hall meeting between Fort Lee residents (mandatory for Soldiers residing in government quarters) and the Department of Public Works and Logistics (DPWL) to determine how to improve service to customers.

Suggest contractors hire more maintenance staff to accommodate the influx of service orders.



Work Group #2

Medical/Dental

Spokesperson: Andrea Thompson



TITLE:

06-19 Additional Medical Facility and Personnel Needed

SCOPE:

Currently the Kenner Army Health Clinic is understaffed, affecting walk-ins, appointments and overall care and treatment. Service members and their family members have expressed concerns about not receiving timely appointments. With BRAC approaching, the situation will only worsen.

RECOMMENDATION:

Turn Kenner Army Health Clinic into Kenner Army Health Hospital with supporting Troop Medical Centers with additional staff.



TITLE:

06-193 Cost of Retiree Dental Plan

SCOPE:

Military retirees must pay for dental insurance. A family of three or more on active duty will pay \$19.95 per month. A retiree with a family of three or more, will pay \$93.40 per month. The retiree's pay is one-half that of an active duty member's paycheck. This situation can cause undue financial burdens in a stressful financial situation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide no cost dental service to military retirees and dependants as a medical benefit.



TITLE:

06-18 Priority of Retirees at the Pharmacy

SCOPE:

Due to the large number of military retirees, who do not all have Tri-Care Prime, waiting times can be excessive. Retirees who are not on Tri-Care Prime are the lowest priority. The experience can be overwhelming for certain retirees.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide retirees their own service window.

After active duty members, service should be based on first come, first serve basis.

Drive-thru window for prescription refills or a medical prescription station at the Post Exchange.



Work Group #3

Family/Soldier Support Issues

Spokesperson: James Beale



TITLE:

Immigration Liaison at Fort Lee

SCOPE:

Currently, there is no personnel who represents Soldiers and spousal immigration issues. There is only one employee to process applications for Naturalization who is also having to redirect and take care of immigration issues with limited knowledge. Having an Immigration Liaison on-post would resolve Soldier Readiness Process (SRP) and Mobilization issues in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION:

Establish a full time Immigration Liaison within the Fort Lee community.



TITLE:

Deployment Time

SCOPE:

Deployment time is too long. Soldiers are being deployed and re-deployed for 12-18 months at a time. Extended deployments for more than twelve months have a negative impact on family life, marriages, retention and on overall Soldier morale.

RECOMMENDATION:

Reduce deployment time to 6-12 months maximum.



TITLE:

Post Library

SCOPE:

There is no library on-post for Soldiers and family members available for reading, researching, school projects, use of computers and story time purposes. Many Soldiers (to include trainees) and family members have limited or no transportation to travel off-post to utilize local community public libraries. Adding a library on-post would prove that Fort Lee is committed to literacy and education of the entire Fort Lee community.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide a library on Fort Lee.



Work Group #4

Child & Youth/Civilian Employment

Spokesperson: Mayann T. Scott



TITLE:

06-155 No Designated Smoking Area At Youth Sports Playing Field

SCOPE:

During sporting events, the problem of smoking has created an uncomfortable situation for smoking and non-smoking patrons; affecting less participation from parents. This situation results in non-smokers breathing the second hand smoke and could have detrimental health effects.

RECOMMENDATION:

Require placement of gazebos for smoking access at the playing field or designate an authorized smoking area.



TITLE:

Establish a Mentoring Program For Teens

SCOPE:

Due to lack of mentoring program for teens, the military and surrounding communities are adversely affected by misguided youths. The absence of guidance and structure negatively affects morale, discipline and creates financial hardships. The absence of a mentoring program for teens affects all youths, families and ultimately the Army's Mission.

RECOMMENDATION:

Implement teen mentoring program, soliciting volunteers within the military community.

Seek existing community partnerships to create a mentoring program for teens.



TITLE:

Inequitable Combat Zone Tax Exclusion For GS Employees

SCOPE:

GS employees are working alongside the military and civilian contractors without receiving the same tax exclusion benefits. This negatively affects morale, readiness, employment retention, and the ability to accomplish their mission. As of December 5TH, 2005 according to data obtained from the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count website, there have been DoD Civilian fatalities along with armed forces and civilian contractors. By not receiving a comparable tax exclusion this conflicts with the total Army concept of "An Army of One."

RECOMMENDATION:

Implement tax exclusion benefits for GS Employees serving in Combat Zones.



Work Group #5

Consumer Services/Entitlements

Spokesperson: Candice Thompson



TITLE:

Command Support for the BOSS Program (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers)

SCOPE:

Due to perceived lack of command emphasis, the BOSS program lacks participation. Membership on our installation consistently remains less than one percent of the single Soldier population. Cancellation of events leads to potentially high risk behaviors. The quality of life of single Soldiers is adversely effected by the perceived lack of command support for this program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct installation command to enforce support of the BOSS program. Require Unit Commanders to appoint unit representatives to increase participation.



TITLE:

Extended Gas Station Hours

SCOPE:

The long lines and overcrowding deter the customers from using the station. It is the only gas station on Fort Lee but it does not fully meet the community's needs. Operation hours are not compatible to duty hours.

RECOMMENDATION:

Trial period of 3 or more months extended hours of operation.

Extend hours to agree with the Siskey gate opening and closing.

Ensure adequate staffing to accommodate the extended hours.



TITLE:

Service Work Order for Barracks (Washers & Dryers)

SCOPE:

There are too many unserviceable washers and dryers in the barracks. Work orders are not being routinely completed in a timely manner and fewer machines are available for use. Soldiers not having clean uniforms and clothing adversely affect individual morale.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure building coordinators inspect and submit daily log sheets to units and to the Department of Public Works and Logistics.

Post the work order telephone number for Soldiers to individually call in work orders.

New and replacement of washers and dryers should be available if needed.



Work Group #6

Youth Group

Spokesperson: Nintieka Nathan



TITLE:

06-166 Have Youth Center Open on Saturdays

SCOPE:

The youth center is not open on Saturdays. Young adults between the ages of 11-18 have limited constructive activities!! Young adults without managed activities are prone to trouble, fights, joining gangs, selling drugs and consuming illegal substances. Young adults need constructive activities, chaperoned by adults in a safe environment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Open the Youth Center on Saturday from 12a.m.-8p.m.



TITLE:

06-169 Open Teen Center for ages 11-18

SCOPE:

The youth center should be reserved for young adults between the ages of 11-18. Young adults have different needs and interests. The teen center should be a place away from home, away from younger children for age appropriate activities to encourage more participation in a safe and productive environment. This would provide young adults a positive influence to become mature socially responsible adults.

RECOMMENDATION:

Youth center should be restricted to young adults ages 11-18.



TITLE:

06-195 Library on Fort Lee

SCOPE:

Library service is not available on Fort Lee, making it difficult to complete certain homework assignments. A safe, educational environment is needed. A place to get away, use computers, rent books, movies, CD's, relax and learn. This would benefit everyone within the Fort Lee community.

RECOMMENDATION:

Re-establish a comprehensive on-post library to serve the Fort Lee community.



TITLE:

06-196 Transportation on Fort Lee

SCOPE:

To provide safe transportation for unlicensed drivers, students, here and not authorized vehicles. Increase participation in programs, profits at PX. Would also reduce out of pocket expenses, pedestrian accidents, drunken driving and teen abductions. Service will benefit all on Fort Lee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide a shuttle van to transport military card holders around post.



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